



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Ray's Food Place, Community Room, 621 Hickory Street NW
Tuesday, August 25, 2009
7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER (Chair Jodi Nelson)
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - July 28, 2009. [Pages 1-4]
 - Action: _____
4. SCHEDULED BUSINESS
 - a. HRC participation in observance of Mental Illness Awareness Week–October 4-10, 2009. [Page 5] (Nelson)
Action: _____
 - b. 2010 MLK Day Celebration participation. [Verbal] (Nelson)
Action: _____
 - c. Business from the Public
 - Community Conversation
5. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION
6. NEXT MEETING DATE: *Tuesday, September 22, 2009*
7. ADJOURNMENT

City of Albany Web site: www.cityofalbanv.net

The location of the meeting/hearing is accessible to the disabled. If you need special accommodations to attend or participate, please notify the Human Resources Department in advance by calling (541) 917-7500.



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

City Hall Willamette Room

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

7:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

MINUTES

Commissioners present: Jodi Nelson, Nancy Greenman, Margaret Martinez, Michael Thomson, Kim Whitley

Commissioners absent: Marian Anderson (excused)

Staff present: Wes Hare, City Manager

Others present: Mayor Sharon Konopa

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Jodi Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

This item was moved to the end of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 23, 2009

MOTION: Margaret Martinez moved to approve the minutes; Nancy Greenman seconded. Approved 5-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

None.

Everybody's Neighborhood Day Proclamation

Mayor Sharon Konopa talked about the history of Everybody's Neighborhood Day, which was held on August 26 in previous years. Konopa said that this would be a great way to recognize past Mayor Gene Belhumeur. Konopa said that she thought it would be appropriate to bring this item to the HRC and see if the group wanted to prepare a proclamation for next month's Council meeting. Wes Hare said that National Night Out is on the first Tuesday of August and maybe both events could be combined next year. Nelson asked if the proclamation could be sent to the *Albany Democrat-Herald* to acknowledge it as well. Nelson suggested the HRC review the proclamation by e-mail so that it is ready for the August 12 City Council Meeting; everyone agreed. Nelson asked if Marilyn Smith is working on the proclamation for this. Hare said that Marilyn is on vacation this week, and he will check with her when she returns. Greenman said that we could leave it open this year to be just a proclamation and then coincide this event with the National Night Out event next year. There was consensus from the HRC to prepare a proclamation this year and plan for an event next year.

Community Conversation Subcommittee

Greenman said that Hare suggested calling these meetings focus groups as a way to get people talking. Everyone is welcome to take part and talk about their experiences in Albany. Nelson said that she thinks five questions is too many to ask each person at the meeting. Konopa said that you may have people come who won't want to speak. Konopa suggested having comment cards available.

Greenman said that they had outcomes for these focus group meetings. Nelson thought that the first outcome measure (number of people attending the meetings) should be left off. She said that it would be better to measure it by the number of promotional activities done by the HRC instead. She said that using the number of people attending as a measure may be discouraging, as it would be basing results on something that is out of our control. The group agreed to measure outcome one by the number and scope of promotional activities in connection with the meetings.

The second outcome and measure was agreed upon as written. Nelson asked that the date of December 31, 2009, be left out as we may not be done with the meetings by then.

Konopa asked how the group plans to reach out to the citizens in our community. She thinks that the media will probably pick up on it at the first meeting, and they may not pick up on it again. Wes said that he agrees and mentioned that the meetings will be listed on the Web site and put in *City Bridges*.

August 25 at Ray's Food Place will be the first meeting date. Greenman asked if we wanted to have a regroup meeting in September or have two different meetings in September. Whitley suggested going out once a quarter for these meetings. Whitley said that we should regroup in September and have a regular meeting to talk about the information gathered at the August meeting. The HRC decided to hold off on the specialized meetings until data has been gathered from the other meetings.

Greenman asked if we want to use the city survey as a guide to preparing questions. Hare said that the survey, and validity of it, is suspect due to the low number of completed surveys. The questions that were posed, though, were great questions and a great way to followup during their focus meetings.

Martinez asked if this is different from other surveys completed. Hare said that last year a random mail-in survey was done. Hare said that there haven't been dramatic changes in the completed surveys. Konopa said that it tends to be the people who have an issue who want to talk about them. Nelson suggested that we should focus on what we want to know and not the questions from the survey unless it is information we could use. Whitley said that we could have multiple formats for people to communicate to us.

The HRC discussed the demographic questions and decided to include the following:

How long have you lived in Albany?

What ethnicity do you consider yourself to be?

What is your age?

What is your gender?

Do you have a disability? Nelson said that she is a little uncomfortable with this question as there are so many different types of disabilities. Hare said that we could add more information to this question so people will understand why it is being asked. Nelson suggested this different wording, "If you are a person with a disability, what are your experiences in the city of Albany?"

Konopa suggested asking an income level as people in poverty may feel uncomfortable in the community.

Greenman said that these following questions would be included on the survey card, and it will be made clear on the card that answering these questions is voluntary.

The HRC agreed that the first question would be "Why or why not would you recommend Albany as a good place to live?"

The HRC agreed that the second question would be "Have you attended a City-sponsored event or activity in the past year? If yes, talk about the experience. If not, why not?"

Nelson said it will be good to explain at the beginning of the meeting what the HRC does so we will not get people off topic. Greenman suggested letting people know that the City sponsored this meeting and what information the group is trying to gather. Greenman said that we want to know what facilitates people getting to events and what keeps people from attending.

The third question will be "Is it easy to get around in the city?" This question will include asking people, "What about when using a walker, wheelchair, stroller, etc."

Konopa suggested asking "Do you feel safe in your neighborhood?"

Greenman asked what our ideas for promotion are. Nelson asked if a flyer could be created for the HRC members to distribute. Whitley said that there are some different groups we could use to distribute these documents. Konopa suggested hanging a poster at Ray's. Hare said that we can produce the flyers. Whitley said that we can also have press releases. Martinez said that we could hang a poster at the Senior Center.

Nelson suggested changing the phrase "Albany wants to listen" to "The Albany Human Relations Commission wants to listen. Come share your experience with living in Albany; come, talk, listen." Hare said that there is an organization in North Albany called NANA (North Albany Neighborhood Association). Hare said that if you reach out to them, they may advertise your meeting and probably have members attend.

Who will give the welcome? Greenman, Whitley, or Thomson will do this.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Martinez made a motion to elect Nelson; Greenman seconded. Approved 4-0.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Greenman made a motion to elect Whitley; Martinez seconded. Approved 4-0.

Nelson said that Laura would like to know if the item (from April's agenda) regarding the budget affecting the mental health illness issues both at the state and federal levels needs to be included on a future agenda. This item was brought up by Whitley originally. Nelson asked if the HRC still wants Stewart to give an update regarding this since it has been an area of concern regarding the treatment of mentally ill people. Nelson said that maybe we don't need to have Stewart come regarding the financial portion of this item, but maybe it is time to revisit the issue.

Whitley said that this had more to do with what funds are being cut for mental health programs and how that would affect the city. Whitley said that she is looking for information as to what is happening to mental health programs in the current financial climate. Nelson suggested that this topic be included on an agenda all by itself; the HRC agreed.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, August 25, 2009, 7:00 p.m., at Ray's Food Place.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

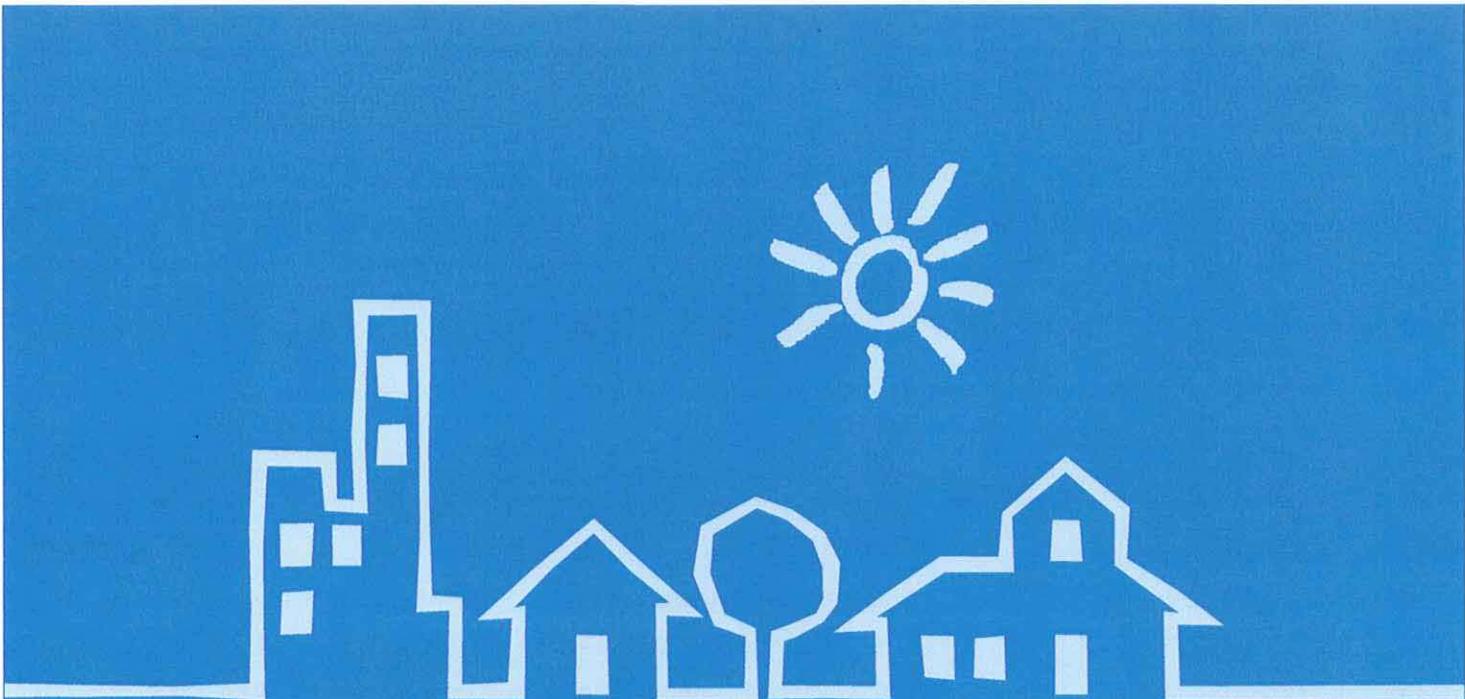
Diana Eilers

Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,

Wes Hare

City Manager



Building Community.
Taking Action.

Mental Illness Awareness Week

October 4-10, 2009

